The Daily Eurofurence

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Wednesday, September 1st, 2010 #6

Size Does Matter!

A large stage calls for a lot of equipment and experienced staff. photo: ang, bat

When asked about what he likes most about the new location, Eurofurence chairman Cheetah says: "Finally we have enough space." But with more space, new challenges arise.

Space aplenty - everyone who wanted to attend EF this year was able to get a place. Enough space for performers and audience on and in front of the stage.

The Hotel has experience when it comes to hosting larger stage events. This of course makes it neccessairy to highten the level of professionalism of the Eurofurence Stage Crew. Safety regulations make it necessary to have a clear construction concept. Former means of improvisation are no longer an option. Conduits and cables need to be set up in a way as not to violate fire regulations. This means that errors in rigging or broken equipment can only be replaced with considerable time effort. The days of cables fixed to the floor with tape a definitely a thing of the past.

The size of the stage will also pose a challenge to the performers on stage. Most of them are used to acting in a smaller space and not to appear overwhelmed by empty space will be a daunting task.

The centrality of the Hotel also requires a new security strategy. The foremost issue will be the fact that the convention will become somewhat open to the general public which makes a stricter enforcement of the rules of conduct a necessity. The location proves to be security friendly since its arangement allows for much better oversight by less personel hightening the flexibilty of security members to react in time of need. But even though there are a few little kinks that need to be ironed out, the general attitude is very positive. The concensus is: finally enough room to make things really awesome.

Here we go again

Goodbye Ringberg - welcome Maritim! Leaving a well-loved location behind and moving on to a new one - let alone a four star business hotel! - represents a major break for con-goers and members of staff alike. Everything is new, huge, shiny and even slightly overwhelming. But with next to a thousand furries populating the place, it will soon feel like the familiar, friendly bee-hive that is Eurofurence.

Everything is not new at the "Daily". After a very warm reception last year, we absolutely had to run another newsletter project this year. And while gave the lay-out a slight face-lift, we tried to retain those qualities that made it work in the first place. Once again, we aim to provide you with an appetizing mixture of useful timetable information, informative journalism, sprinkled with bits of fun and entertainment.

While we are missing two important crew members - Tambako is exhibiting his photos and Bariki has started a new job, kudos! - we have a number of new talents you can look forward to: VulpesRex (writer), Tekumseh (photographer) and Ice-wolf (lay-out/proof-reading) as well as our two volunteer photographers Chitatz and Shep-Dog. We will do our best to keep you up-to-date and provide you with reading-fodder for your coffee breaks. We hope that you will enjoy this convention just as much as we do!

Yours, Luxen

Sight-Seeing and Eating Out in Magdeburg

One advantage of the convention site being right in the city center is the possibility to go sight-seeing in your event-free time. There are several points of interest that are within easy walking distance of the Maritim Hotel.

One extragavant destination is a specimen of surreal architecture of Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Converted from GDR-era apartment block, the 'Green Citadel of Magdeburg' was the final project the artist planned completely before his death. Located southeast of the convention hotel at Breiter Weg 9.

Another historical building of importance is the former monastery 'Kloster Unser Lieben Frauen', built in Romanesque style and having survived considerably well. It can be found two blocks east of the Hundertwasser building (Regierungsstrasse 4). Although most of Magdeburg burnt down during the Thirty Years' War and much of the population perished, the city cathedral survived. Originally founded by Otto I, the first Holy Roman Emperor, the cathedral burnt down in 1207. It was reconstructed, becoming the first German cathedral built in Gothic style. The large building is easy to find by continuing south from the monastery (Domplatz 1).

The 'Green Citadel' is not all that green. photo: bat

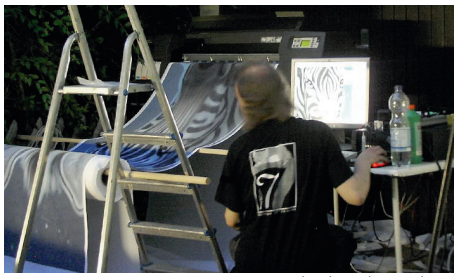
In terms of local culinary specialties Magdeburg isn't especially distinct from wider German food culture. For that reason it might be better to try a meat dish like Eisbein or go to a bakery or a cafe to have German pastries. *(hhp)*

Visitor Statistics

One of 141 - a British 'Bobby' checking in. photo: ang

At 991 attendees, Eurofurence 16 is just nine visitors short of the magical 1000 threshold.This means a plus of 80 guests - the growth trend of the last years is unbroken. Germans still represent the biggest nationality group (424), followed by the British (141), the Dutch (60), the Americans (53) and the Austrians (53). Sixth in line are the Russians, whose attendance score has increased from 27 last year to 40. A good ten percent (104) of the con-goers are female. 105 people are staying outside the Maritim. *(lux)*

Decoration Team Dreams Big



From a backyard in Berlin...

...to the Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. photos: Riffuchs/bat

The most ambitious decoration project in the history of Eurofurence features eleven giant banners. A tale of ink and sweat.

In a hotel as big as the Maritim, you need to make an effort to make yourself noticed. This year's decoration scheme includes a safari-tested jeep and life-sized cut-out figures. The most attention-grabbing sign of Eurofurence's presence, however, are the eleven huge banners hanging in the lobby. Almost a metre in width and five metres in length, they feature animals of the Serengeti and one letter each of the word EUROFURENCE.

"The colours represent the different shades of the Serengeti sun throughout a day," explains Nimrais. The German artist was in charge of the design process and contributed two banners herself. "I then wrote to fellow artists whose style and artistic quality fit the project and asked them to contribute. Most of them said 'Yes'."

To look good on a print the height of a house, the images had to be extra high-resolution, at least 10,000 pixels on the long side. But the artistic challenges were rivalled by the difficulties of the printing process. To keep costs at bay, all banners were printed privately, at Riffuchs' home, on a Ao-sized colour printer that had become redundant at his workplace.

Little did the head of con operations know how delicate and time-consuming his special task would turn out to be. Software errors had to be worked out, metre after metre of fabric cut to their exact width, ink leakages prevented. "All in all, two people spent a good five days working in my back yard, sometimes until four in the morning."

All banners are up for sale in the artshow. All proceeds will go to charity. "If your rooms are not high enough, you can hang them to ceiling," Riffuchs suggests. "They make a great souvenir. And where else can you buy a print of this size and quality?" *(lux)*

Today's Timetable

Registration Open	
	14:00—17:00
	18:00—21:00
Opening Ceremony (Lobby)	
	17:00—19:00
BBQ (Terrace)	
	17:30—19:00
Artists' Lounge (Dresden)	
	20:00—02:00
Video Game Corner (Stuttgart)	
	20:00—02:00

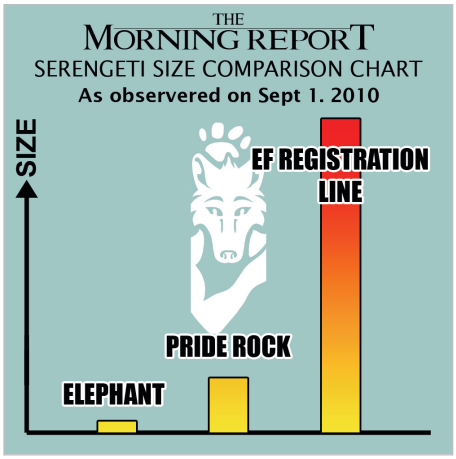
Eurofurence Attracts Media Attention

Celebrating a furry convention in the middle of a city necessarily attracts a fair share of attention, not only from locals and passers-by, but also from the media. Besides two comic fanzines, there have been requests from the MDR public television and radio station, from the local daily "Volksstimme" (which already run an article anouncing Eurofurence) as well as from the local split from Germany's biggest tabloid, BILD.

While the journalists are guided around by our experienced staff, some guests might still feel unsure about how to react when approached by a journalist. Eurofurence press relations officer Jörg "o'wolf" Reuter has good advice:

- Speak about what we are and do, not about what we are not. Be positive and open, not defensive.
- Highlight the artistic aspect of the convention, rather than trying to describe the whole fandom in all its complexities. At Eurofurence, painters, musicians, film-makers, costume builders and puppeteers are coming together to display their skill. This is at the core of the event.
- "No comment" always sounds suspicious. If you feel unsure about a question or if a topic just seems too sensitive, point the journalist to the people wearing red staff badges. They can give them a more informed explanation or refer them to core staff or media relations.

For more information about the Do's and Don'ts of public communication, o'wolf offers a SIG called "Furries in the Press" on Thursday. (lux)



a cartoon by Pegla

The Magnificent Seven

Find 7 African animals and 7 Eurofurence team leads (across, down, reverse, diagonal)

X O F T H G I N N L S U
E O S F O X X H U A H C
G Y R O P L A S T K C W
C P F P I T N T M C U A
Z I E O E C T C I A F R
E Z N E A I I Z V J F T
B G H I O Y L O S X I H
R C R Y R L O E W I R O
A Y N A P B P Z B G R G
N P J Y A N E A Y H O E

Solution: See ConOps Desk.

The Hunt

a story by Bariki

The hot sun beat down upon the tall grass, casting endless tiny shadows as it swayed gently in the breeze. Across the valley, the sunlight glistened upon the river, where the gazelle had gathered to drink and seek relief from the heat of the day. Crouched silently in the grass the lioness watched and waited, scanning the herd: the gazelle were plentiful here, their fawns splashing about and cavorting without understanding that their death was lurking only a few seconds and a mouthful of razor sharp teeth away.

Slowly, the lioness stalked closer, skirting around the grass that had been cropped short by grazing animals. Yes, she could see a knot of youngsters a little away from their parents, old enough to make a decent meal for the hungry predator but not yet old enough to outrun her. Nothing moved around her, the tall grasses seeming to flow over and around her sleek form, only the wind and the sky aware of her presence as the lioness inched closer to the gazelle, their scent carrying to her, forcing her to quell her hunger for just a moment or two more. The hunter's heart skipped a beat, sighting a fawn limping behind his brothers and sisters, probably hurt in some horseplay between them all: an easy target for the lioness.

A moment more and she reached the boundary of the long grass, within striking distance of the injured fawn. The lioness' muscles clenched, every muscle in her body taut in anticipation of what was to come. As she was about to strike and close the final distance between her and the fawn, a clear voice rang out loudly and clearly behind her.

"Found you!"

The lioness jumped and dozens of eyes suddenly fell upon her. In a frenzy of hooves and dust, the animals beside the river turned as one and bolted. With a snarl of frustration, the lioness sprung from cover and made for the lame fawn, but with the element of surprise gone even he had managed a good head start on her and was gone across the valley. Turning back to the voice that had startled her, the lioness scowled down upon the smiling face of her youngest daughter, the rumbling of her stomach battling maternal pride for having been denied so skillfully.

Impressum: Michael "Luxen" Graf (lux), Andreas "Curry" Wieland (cur), Hannu-Heikki "hHP" Puupponen (hhp), Matthias "Angus" Bauer (ang), Philipp "Batian_Lion" Belper (bat)